

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/25/2008 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Warren Burnam, Jr. (Reg. No. 29,366) on 9/25/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 9, before "reading surface", change "a" to --the--.

In claim 1, line 51, before "the intersection", insert --to--.

In claim 1, line 55, before "intersection", change "the" to --an--.

In claim 1, line 55, after "downward slant", insert --surface--.

Art Unit: 2625

In claim 10, line 54, before "the intersection", insert --to--.

In claim 10, line 58, before "intersection", change "the" to --an--.

In claim 10, line 58, after "downward slant", insert --surface--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fukumura (Japanese Publication No. 11-041408) and/or Funagoshi (Japanese Publication No. 05-037743) do not disclose, teach or suggest, a transport path configured to guide, in an original transport direction, the original to an original eject slot, wherein the transport path comprises a lower guide surface and an upper guide surface, said lower guide surface also serving as a light-blocking portion, and wherein at least a portion of the lower guide surface is positioned above an extended plane of the reading surface of the optical reader; a first slant surface provided between the reading surface of the optical reader and the light-blocking portion; a cover surface provided around a substantial portion of a periphery of the transporter in such a manner as to face the transporter; wherein the transport path is arranged at a slant angle; wherein said transport path comprises a second slant surface adjacent said first slant surface; wherein the optical reader is arranged such that the reading surface has a slant angle approximately equal to that of the transport path, but partially at a different angle; wherein the second slant surface is an upward slant that may be formed to have a slant angle similar to a slant angle of the first slant surface and/or more gradual than the slant angle of the first slant

Art Unit: 2625

surface; wherein, provided between said upper guide surface and said lower guide surface, is a predetermined distance that prevents light incident through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the reading surface; wherein, provided between the transporter and the cover surface, is a predetermined distance that prevents light incident through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the reading surface; wherein the upper guide surface is configured to regulate the original transport direction and to prevent incident external light through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the optical reader; wherein the first slant surface intersects with the lower guide surface at an intersection; wherein said second slant surface is at least partially provided between the reading surface and the intersection of the first slant surface and the lower guide surface; wherein the cover surface intersects with the upper guide surface at an intersection; where said second slant surface is provided at the intersection of the cover surface and the upper guide surface; wherein a downward slant surface is provided between the second slant surface and the transporter; wherein a portion of the upper guide surface is substantially parallel to the lower guide surface at a point that is adjacent to the intersection of the first slant surface and the lower guide surface; wherein said second slant surface intersects said portion of the upper guide surface that is substantially parallel to the lower guide surface; wherein an intersection of the downward slant surface and the second slant surface nearly

Art Unit: 2625

intersects an extended plane of the lower guide surface, as claimed in independent claim 1.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fukumura (Japanese Publication No. 11-041408) and/or Funagoshi (Japanese Publication No. 05-037743) do not disclose, teach or suggest, the optical reader including a reading surface inclined toward a sub scanning direction; wherein at least a portion of the lower guide member is positioned above an extended plane of the reading surface of the optical reader; a first slant surface provided between the reading surface of the optical reader and the light-blocking portion; a cover surface provided around a substantial portion of a periphery of the transporter in such a manner as to face the transporter; wherein the transport path is arranged at a slant angle; wherein said transport path comprises a second slant surface adjacent said first slant surface; wherein the optical reader is arranged such that the reading surface has a slant angle approximately equal to that of the transport path, but partially at a different angle; wherein the second slant surface is an upward slant that may be formed to have a slant angle similar to a slant angle of the first slant surface and/or more gradual than the slant angle of the first slant surface; wherein, provided between said upper guide member and said lower guide member, is a predetermined distance that prevents light incident through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the reading surface; wherein, provided between the transporter and the cover surface, is a predetermined distance that prevents light incident through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the reading

Art Unit: 2625

surface; wherein the upper guide member is configured to regulate the original transport direction and to prevent incident external light through the original eject slot from being reflected inside the image reading device and entering the optical reader; wherein the first slant surface intersects with a lower guide surface of the lower guide member at an intersection; wherein said second slant surface is at least partially provided between the reading surface and the intersection of the first slant surface and said lower guide surface of the lower guide member; wherein the cover surface intersects with an upper guide surface of the upper guide member at an intersection; where said second slant surface is provided at the intersection of the cover surface and said upper guide surface of the upper guide member; wherein a downward slant surface is provided between the second slant surface and the transporter; wherein a portion of the upper guide member is substantially parallel to the lower guide member at a point that is adjacent to the intersection of the first slant surface and said lower guide surface of the lower guide member; wherein said second slant surface intersects said portion of the upper guide member that is substantially parallel to the lower guide member; wherein an intersection of the downward slant surface and the second slant surface nearly intersects an extended plane of said lower guide surface of the lower guide member, as claimed in independent claim 10.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dov Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625